

History 2630F
AFRICA: AN INTRODUCTION
Fall 2025 | 2025– 26

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Office: Department of History, Lawson Hall 1220

Office Hours: Via Zoom and by Appointment

This is a DRAFT outline. Please see the course site on OWL Brightspace for a final version.

Invocation: To the Sun, in whose tight embrace we and other planets travel the Cosmos free of charge, we are grateful. To the Earth, the ground of our being, we are grateful. To all fellow creatures on this planet, on land, in the air, and waters, we are grateful; we apologize that our human ways are ravaging your ways of life and that our awakening to the climate crises returns us to our place of belonging as one among many keystone species. To our personal and collective ancestors, we are grateful, and we shall right the wrongs. We are grateful to, and acknowledge the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Chonnonton Nations, on whose traditional Dish with One Spoon Treaty Territory is where this course takes place. And so, it is.

Course Description

Mauya! Sam'kele! Welcome! This course introduces students to the African continent through a historical lens. Combining ecological, cultural, social, political, and economic History, students will each week study an element of African History that will support their understanding of contemporary Africa. That is, the course combines a close study of the deep past with the triumphs and challenges of contemporary life to understand Africa's place in the world, and the world's place in Africa. Of importance will be the African perspective and modes of knowing, remembering, and doing history.

Course Syllabus –Students will be able to:

- * Read and speak fluently the basic timelines and themes in African History.
- * Write a historically informed essay on one region of Africa.
- * Use primary sources, and in collaboration with a team, produce a poster introducing others to Africa in an accessible, coherent, and innovative way.
- * Aim for excellence in all aspects of learning and teaching.

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Methods of Evaluation

- * **30% - In Teams, In-Class Quizzes @ 10% Each**
 - Teams will be assigned at least 2 weeks before each quiz.
- * **20% - Individual Reflection Essay**
 - A prompt will be given, and students will choose one region to focus for this individual essay
- * **30% - Team Poster—Research (10%); Presentation (10%); Peer Evaluation (10%)**
 - Teams will be assigned approximately 3-4 weeks before, so you prepare.
- * **20% - Individual Attendance, Active Preparation, and Participation**
 - Missing more than two classes will set this portion to half its value
 - Active preparation for, and participation in, class is required in this hands-on interactive course.



Course Schedule: * TBA**ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS**

Communication policies: I am available via email and office hours in-person or on Zoom.

Classroom behavior: Respect is important, both in and outside the classroom. In the classroom it includes waiting your turn, being respectful of different points of view on different issues and leading with heart and mind. The classroom interaction includes watching films as well as close reading of texts electronically and in print.

Use of electronic devices: There will be short breaks during the three hours of class time. To that end, please keep your devices in silent (without vibration) mode, or better, in airplane mode and store until breaktime and after class.

Use of generative AI tools: The use of generative AI tools like ChatGPT is permitted in this course for activities such as brainstorming and refining your ideas, drafting an outline to organize your thoughts, or checking grammar and style. Any use of such tools should be properly documented and cited. If in doubt, please ask me for clarification.

Please review the Department of History's shared policies and statements for all undergraduate courses at:

https://history.uwo.ca/undergraduate/program_module_information/policies.html for important information regarding accessibility options, make-up exams, medical accommodations, health and wellness, academic integrity, plagiarism, and more.

Important Academic Dates for 2025-26.

2025

Description	Date
Labour Day	September 1
Fall/Winter Term classes begin	September 4
Last day to add a full course, or a first-term half course	September 12
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	September 30
Thanksgiving Holiday	October 13
Autumn Convocation	October 22 - 23
Fall Reading Week	November 1- 9
History make-up midterms	TBA
Last day to withdraw from a full (1.0) course and full-year half (0.5) course resulting in a grade of 'WDN' (withdrawn, without academic penalty). Course withdrawals after this date will appear on a transcript with a grade of 'F'.	December 1
Fall Term classes end	December 9
Study Days	December 10
Fall term examination period	December 11 - 22

2026

Description	Date
Classes resume	January 5
Last day to add a second-term half course	January 13
Spring Reading Week	February 14 - 22
Family Day	February 16
History make-up midterms	TBA
Last day to withdraw from a second-term half (0.5) course, or a second-term full (1.0) course resulting in a grade of 'WDN' (withdrawn, without academic penalty). Course withdrawals after this date will appear on a transcript with a grade of 'F'.	March 30
Good Friday	April 3
Easter Sunday	April 5
Winter Term classes end	April 9
Study Days	April 10 - 11
Final examination period	April 12 - 30

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